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Identical letters dated 17 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 9 June 2011 on the outcome of the sixteenth round of the Geneva discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia (see annex).

I would like to request your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Security Council and the President of the Security Council

Outcome of the latest round of Geneva discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia

At the sixteenth round of Geneva discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia held in Geneva on 7 June 2011, the increased aggressiveness of the Georgian delegation stood out clearly. It tried to attribute all the failures of the Tbilisi leadership in domestic and international affairs to the intrigues of Russia. The Georgian side made groundless accusations that Russian secret services had been behind some "terrorist attacks" on Georgian territory. Characteristically, one more arrest of a "saboteur" near the North Atlantic Treaty Organization liaison office in Tbilisi on 6 June occurred immediately before the multilateral meeting in Geneva.

However, the facts of recent months (the penetration of Georgian Interior Ministry special forces into Abkhazia, the killing of a Russian border service officer in April, the incidents in South Ossetia) clearly demonstrate who is actually undermining the nascent stabilization in Transcaucasia.

We're witnessing the increased activity of Georgian secret services near the boundaries. Since the beginning of the year, 12 raids by Georgian subversive groups into the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia, mostly in the Gali district, have been registered. These actions are inherently linked to the anti-Russian campaign of spy mania in Georgia and to attempts to find a "Russian connection" in the activities of Georgia's internal opposition.

In this regard, during the debate, the Russian delegation stressed the need for more careful control by European Union observers over the actions of Georgian security agencies in areas bordering Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Once again, it was noted that the mandate of the European Union Monitoring Mission does not apply to the adjacent areas of the newly independent States.

As regards the transition to practical steps for confidence-building measures, transparency and the exchange of information, our position remains unchanged. It is necessary that legally binding agreements of the non-use of threat of force should be signed between Tskhinval and Tbilisi and between Sukum and Tbilisi. Unfortunately, we cannot speak here of any progress at all.

The stubborn unwillingness of official Tbilisi to regard the representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as equal partners in the negotiations results in the lack of progress in solving the entire range of problems associated with the return of refugees and displaced persons. Due to the fact that Georgia has once again submitted the respective draft resolution to the General Assembly, it is clear that without the participation of Abkhaz and South Ossetian delegations the General Assembly debate could turn into a political farce.

The outcome of the round confirms that the Georgian side has still not put forward my construction proposals to forge ties with Abkhazia and South Ossetia and is increasingly slipping into propaganda rhetoric.